NOTE VI.

REPTILES FROM TIMOR AND THE NEIGHBOURING ISLANDS.

BY

Dr. Th. W. VAN LIDTH DE JEUDE.

The study of the fauna of the Timor group is one of the most interesting subjects of zoogeography, the islands of this group having their own peculiar inhabitants besides a great many species which they have in common with Java and still other species that are strictly Australian forms. Wallace already in his „Malay Archipelago" drew attention to this fact, and stated that with regard to the birds 47 species ought to be regarded as being derived from Java, whilst 48 species originated from Australia. With regard to the Papilionidae Wallace mentions 4 species peculiar to Timor, 3 also found in Java and one Australian form.

Every contribution to our knowledge of this interesting fauna can claim the attention of all zoologists concerned in zoogeography, and I feel quite happy in being enabled to give a list of reptiles, collected at the islands of the Timor group by Dr. H. ten Kate, who afterwards kindly presented them to the Leyden Museum.

Though the collection is not a very large one, it is a very valuable one as it contains 19 species, and as habitats such as the island of Soemba, the island of Groot Bastaard (N. of Flores) and the island of Adoenara (E. of Flores) are seldom represented in zoological collections.

Chelonians.

1. *Chelodina novae-guineae* Blgr.

Three specimens from Rotti agree so closely with the description and the figures given by Boulenger of *Chelodina novae-guineae* that I am quite sure they do belong to this species. The intergular is *more* than three times the length of the suture between the pectorals, in this point agreeing with Boulenger's figure, although his description mentions intergular *nearly* three times as long as the suture between the pectorals. The anals of the young specimen are relatively larger than those of the adult ones. In one specimen, long 18 cm., the suture between the anals is as large as the suture between the abdominals and more than half the length of the intergular, in the two smaller specimens, each 10 cm. long, the suture between the anals is larger than the suture between the abdominals and as large or a little larger than gulars and intergular together. No one of the three specimens has the posterior part of the carapace so much rounded as indicated by Boulenger's figure, in all of them this posterior part ends in an obtuse triangular point. Plastron of a reddish brown colour without the broad black lines along the sutures between the shields, such as are characteristical with *Chelodina longicollis.*

It is a peculiar fact that the specimens of this species seem to show a tendency to augmenting the total number of their shields by dividing one or more of them. So in Boulenger's figure the posterior vertebral shield is divided into two shields lying one behind the other, the number of vertebrals thus rising till six. In one of our small specimens this posterior vertebral shield is divided into four, so forming six vertebrals and 8 costal shields; in the other small specimen the posterior vertebral shield is divided lengthwise into three shields, thus raising the number of costal shields to eight; whilst our largest specimen has the supracaudal or the last marginal shield on the left side divided into two, there thus being one shield more on the left than on the right.

Lizards.

2. *Hemidactylus frenatus* D. B.

Several specimens from the islands of Soemba, Rotti, Adoenara and Groot-Bastaard.

3. *Hemidactylus platyurus* Schn.

One specimen from Soemba, two from Groot-Bastaard.

4. *Hemidactylus Tenkatei* nov. spec.

Digits quite free, free distal joints of digits long, dorsal tubercles large conical in 16 rows, tail annulate, the first ring with 8, the following with 6 much enlarged tubercles, 3 or 4 lamellae under the inner, and 7 or 8 under the median toe.

Snout somewhat larger than the distance between the eye and the ear-opening, nearly twice the diameter of the orbit; forehead concave, ear-opening small roundish. Rostral quadrangular with a median cleft; nostral pierced between the rostral the first upper labial and three nasal shields, the first nasal not in contact with its fellow of the other side. Eight or nine upper- and eight lower-labials; mental large triangular with two pairs of chinshields. Back covered with small granules intermixed with large conical tubercles arranged in 16 series on the middle of the body; the tubercles of the 4 median innermost series somewhat elongate with an indication of a keel. Tubercles on the hinder part of the head round and very small. The diameter of the largest tubercle on the back nearly equals the diameter of the earopening. Underparts of the head and neck with small granules, belly with rather large cycloid scales. Limbs moderate, the upper part of the thigh covered with granules intermixed with tubercles; fingers free, 3 or 4 lamellae under the inner and 7 or 8 under the median toe. Tail depressed, annulate with spine-like tubercles, underneath with a row of large transverse plates. Colour of the upper parts gray with irregular dark spots, under parts white.

Two adult and one young specimen from Rotti.

Measurements taken on the largest specimen:

Total length	98 mm.
Head	16 »
Width of head	10 »
Body	35 »
Fore limb	17 »
Hind limb	21 »
Tail	47 »

5. *Gehyra mutilata* Wiegm.

Six specimens from Rotti.

6. *Gecko verticillatus* Laur.

Specimens from Timor, Rotti, Soemba and Adoenara.

7. *Draco timorensis* Kuhl.

One specimen captured in Timor and three from Rotti, with a row of enlarged and keeled scales running along each side of the vertebral line. These specimens agree, in having these two rows of enlarged scales with specimens already in our collection and also captured at Timor and Rotti and with one specimen from Samao described by Schlegel under the name: *Draco viridis var. samaoensis.* As to the length of the hind limb, Boulenger states that the specimen in the British Museum reaches with its adpressed hind limb midway between the elbow and the axil of the adpressed forelimb. In most of our specimens this is not the case, the adpressed hind limb only reaching the elbow, still there are among our specimens two which agree in this point with the specimen in the British Museum. As to the number of the upper labials in most of our specimens it amounts to nine, still the number of these scales is not always constant, our specimen from Samao f. i. having 10 upper labials at its right and only 8 at its left side.

In one large female specimen from Rotti, measuring 9 cm. from the tip of the snout to the beginning of the tail, were found five nearly fullgrown eggs measuring 12 mm. by 7,5 mm.

8. *Varanus timorensis* Gray.

One specimen from Timor, another from Rotti.

9. *Lygosoma florense* Weber.

In Dr. ten Kate's collection there are 11 specimens of this species from Groot-Bastaard, one specimen from Larantoeka in Flores, and 2 specimens from Adoenara. All these specimens agree in the presence of 5 to 6 auricular lobes, in having only one loreal shield behind the nasal, in having the frontonasal nearly twice as broad as long and in having a straight broad suture between the rostral and the frontonasal (in some specimens the forepart of the frontonasal forms even a convex line). In all our specimens the frontal is in contact with four supraoculars, the first supraocular never being twice as long as the second one. Subdigital lamellae under the fourth toe 27 to 29 in number, 44 to 50 series of scales round the body. There are some specimens which have the supraorbital region much swollen, in others that region is almost flat; some specimens have a black throat, in others the scales below the head are more or less spotted with black, in still others there is no black at all, the throat being of the same colour as the belly [1]).

This species was already represented in our collections by several specimens collected by Müller and Macklot in the islands of Timor and Samao, and were labelled *Scincus melanopogon* n. sp.

Duméril and Bibron's species *Lygosoma melanopogon* comprises three species of the more recent authors viz. *L. variegatum* Ptrs, *L. Meyeri* Doria and *L. florense* Weber. The two latter species occur or at least used to occur in the islands of the Timor group as we have in our collections also specimens of *L. variegatum* captured by Müller and Macklot in Timor and Samao. These specimens though also labelled *Sc. melanopogon* were separated from the specimens of *L. florense*. Now Duméril and Bibron in giving the synonymy of *Lygosoma melanopogon* quote besides »*Scincus naevius* Péron, Mus. de Paris" also »*Sc. melanopogon* Müller, Mus. de Leyde" and »*Sc. erythrolamus* Müller, Mus. de Leyde". So there can be little doubt that already Sam. Müller noted the difference between two narrowly related *Lygosoma*-species viz. *L. florense* and *L. variegatum* found side by side in the Timor-group and named them *Scincus melanopogon* and *Sc. erythrolamus*. As however he never gave a description or a figure of these species the names he gave them can only be retained in the synonymy with the addition »in Museo".

---

[1]) Prof. M. Weber had the kindness to compare one of our specimens with his types.

As far as I know of, *Lygosoma Meyeri* Doria does not occur in the islands of the Timor group but is restricted to Papuasia; as the Leyden Museum does not possess any specimen of this species I cannot compare it with specimens of the other two species, still Doria's description is so clear that there can be no doubt that it must be regarded as a distinct species, differing from *L. variegatum* a. o. by having only one loreal shield behind the nasal, in stead of the two superposed loreals of the latter species. I think it better to call this species *L. Meyeri* Doria than to retain the old name of *L. melanopogon* D. B.

It is very curious that though *L. variegatum* is widely distributed over the islands of Papuasia (we have in our collections specimens from the Aroe islands, from Batante, Salawatti, Guebeh and Mefoor), and was in Müller's time rather common on Timor; still there is now not one specimen of this species in Dr. ten Kate's collection.

10. *Lygosoma smaragdinum* Less.

One young specimen from Rotti. The collections of the Leyden Museum contain three specimens of this species collected by Müller and Macklot in Timor.

11. *Lygosoma cyanurum* Less.

Three specimens from Groot-Bastaard.

12. *Lygosoma emigrans* nov. spec.

I class this species in the group *Hinulia* next to *Lygosoma tenue* Gray, to which species it shows a very striking resemblance as to the pholidosis of the head, but from which it widely differs with regard to the development of its limbs and its slenderness. Our new species is so slender and has such short limbs, that at first I hesitated whether to class it under the group *Hinulia* or under *Homolepida*, in which latter case it proved to be very nearly related to *Lygosoma taprobanense* Kelaart.

The following description in the way of Boulenger's Catalogue will show its affinity with *L. tenue.*

Habit slender, the distance between the end of the snout and the forelimb is contained about $1^3/_4$ in the distance between axilla and groin. Snout moderately obtuse. Lower eyelid scaly. Nostril pierced in a single nasal, no supranasal; frontonasal much broader than long, forming a suture with the rostral *and with the frontal.* Frontal as long or a little shorter than the frontoparietals and the interparietal together, in contact with the two anterior supraoculars, four supraoculars, seven or eight supraciliaries; frontoparietals and interparietal distinct, subequal or latter shortest; parietals forming a suture behind the interparietal, *two enlarged shields* on each side bordering the parietals, *a smaller one in the middle* behind the suture between the parietals. A part of the fourth upper labial and the fifth and sixth upper labial below the eye. Ear-opening round without auricular lobes, smaller than the eye-opening. 26 *rows* of smooth scales round the middle of the body, dorsal scales largest. A pair of large praeanals. Length of the hind limb *half as long* as the distance between axilla and groin, length of the forelimb a *little less than a third* of that distance. Fourth toe the longest with 20 smooth subdigital lamellae.

On the back a brown colour with black spots, a dark brown band above the earopening through the eye mostly bordered above by a white line; sides dark brown spotted with white; belly white, the upper and lower labials with dark brown and white spots.

Six specimens from the island of Soemba. Another specimen from Groot-Bastaard quite agrees with them only being of a darker and more uniform coloration.

Two specimens, captured by S. Müller at the island of Samao and now in our collections, do belong to this species. Though very much bleached through the action of the spirits, the dark line running over the tympanum and through the eye is still clearly visible.

Measurements on three specimens from Soemba.

	mm.	mm.	mm.
Total length	130	—	125
Head	10	11	10
Width of head	5,5	6,5	5,5
Body	48	43	40
Forelimb	9,5	10	10
Hindlimb	15	16	15
Tail	72	mutilated	75

Snakes.

13. *Typhlops braminus* Daud.

One specimen from Timor, another from Soemba.

14. *Elaphis subradiatus* Schl.

One specimen from Timor, another specimen and a head from Rotti. Both specimens with 23 rows of scales, all with 9 upperlabials, the fourth being a very small one lying beneath the lower praeocular, the fifth and sixth entering the orbit. The black line running along the sides of the neck to the posterior temporal shield is present in the Timor-specimen, but absent in both specimens from Rotti, both of them being of a uniform brown colour except the black line behind the eye.

15. *Cerberus rhynchops* Schn.

Several specimens from Rotti and Soemba.

16. *Dendrophis pictus* Boie.

One specimen from Timor, two from Rotti.

17. *Lycodon aulicum* Linné, var. γ Günther.

Specimens from Rotti and Soemba.

18. *Psammodynastes pulverulentus* Boie.

One specimen from Flores, another from Soemba.

19. *Bothrops erythrurus* Cantor.

One specimen from Timor, another from Rotti. As far as I know of *B. gramineus* Shaw, so often met with in collections from Sumatra, was never captured in the islands of the Timor-group.

Leyden Museum, March 1894.